

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 5, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Nov. 5th, 1896. My dear Alec:

I have three such nice letters to thank you for today. I don't really "slap you" so often in my letters do I? I know yesterday's letter might be considered to belong to that category, but I think it's the first I have sent you. That other wasn't to you at all you know.

Thanks for all your items of information. I hadn't heard of the Mexican metropolis, nor of the different weights of atoms.

Elsie seems interested in her physics and I will try to get her to write notes for you. She thinks she is busy. I am so sorry I forgot about Bertha, Ellis will remember tomorrow.

This election isn't so satisfactory after all. I don't like its being so close for it seems to indicate a still harder fight in another four years and it would have been such a comfort to feel that the whole question of free silver had been snowed under so that even spring wouldn't reach it. Now I am afraid Bryan will be encouraged to work on. I do not like feeling that I may be looked on with disfavor by some hundreds of people about here as a "bloated aristocrat" because "the masses" have been arrayed against "the classes".

It is warm and wet and heavy and I wish we could get a breath of fresh Beinn Bhreagh air. I have decided not to get Elsie 2 a trap this year. I wanted to very much because it seemed really necessary as Perrin's wagon is so awfully shabby and of course I want to go out to see Mamma pretty often. However it was out of the question. I am working hard trying to make Elsie's dresses out of nothing and it tires me as I have no knack that way.

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I took Elsie and Lina to the theatre to see Ida Reban this evening. We went in the cars as Perrin's horse is not well enough to drag the coupe and I was afraid of the open carriage. I have engaged a livery stable carriage for three months and have told Perrin he will have to take Hackett's place, thus reducing our establishment.

Ida Reban was very like what I think Mrs. Lander must have been, just that theatrical manner. Mrs. Lander was in the next row to us. I miss you very much and the stimulating intellectual atmosphere you create. We have an atmosphere of paint instead and I don't think the exchange a fair one! I am sorry to send a stupid letter for your nice bright ones but I have nothing to say but to thank you again for them, they were the greatest pleasure. Thank Mr. McCurdy for one from him also. Did you give Susie the plaid dress material I sent. There ought to have been cravats for you over and above those for the men.

I love you. I love you.